



What is the Developmental Disabilities Act?



The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) is a law that describes the rights of people with developmental disabilities and their families to participate fully in their communities.



The goal of the DD Act is to make sure decisions about people with disabilities are made with their input.

The Act creates three programs to help people with disabilities.



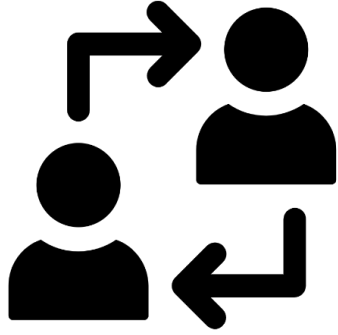
First, are what we call UCEDDs. This stands for University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Every state has at least one UCEDD, at a University.

The UCEDD studies how to make the lives of people with disabilities better.

The UCEDD helps people who want to work with people with disabilities learn about the best ways to help.

They also help the community to understand the important roles people with disabilities have.





Second, each state has a DD Council. These are groups of people who work to change the lives of people with disabilities.

The DD Council might help you by asking questions about how your life could be better, and what your community can do to help.

The DD Council also works with other groups of people, like in schools, to look for ways to make it easier to learn.

The DD Council also works with people with disabilities to help them understand how they can be a better advocate for themselves. An advocate is someone who stands up for themselves and the things that are important to them.



Third, each state has an office of Protection & Advocacy.



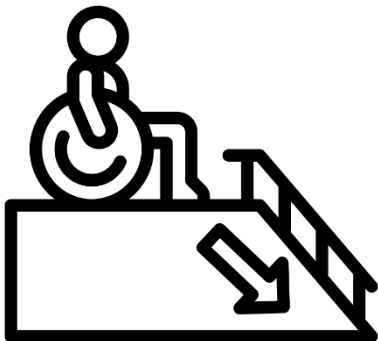
This office provides help when people with disabilities are not treated fairly.

They also watch places like group homes, to make sure everyone is safe and healthy.



What can Congress Do to Support People with Disabilities?

Congress needs to know more about what stops people with disabilities from working, going to school, and living in the community.





More money in these programs means more support for people with disabilities.



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AUCD in Plain Language

